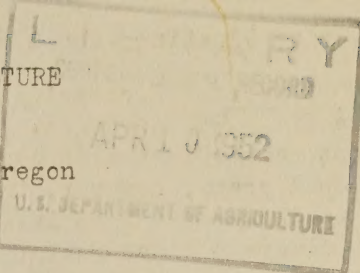


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES
306 U. S. Court House, Portland 5, Oregon



PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1952
(March 1, 1952)

OREGON: The total intended acreage of principal spring planted crops (excluding hay) in Oregon this year is indicated to be about 12 per cent less than a year ago and about 10 per cent below the 10-year (1941-50 average, according to the Crop Reporting Service. The intentions to plant report is made possible by the cooperation of farmers and ranchers indicating their plans about March 1.

Reduced plantings of spring crops is largely the result of a 14 per cent increase in the acreage of winter wheat planted in the fall of 1951. A total of 953,000 acres were planted to winter wheat compared with 836,000 acres a year earlier. Seeding conditions in the fall of 1951 were favorable in the Columbia Basin, resulting in the full intended acreage being planted. A somewhat larger acreage of fall oats with vetch or peas also reduced the acreage available for spring plantings. The intended acreage of all oats, fall and spring planted alone and with other crops is indicated to be 3 per cent larger than last year. The following decreases are indicated in acreages of spring planted crops: spring wheat, down 33 per cent; barley, down 14 per cent; and dry peas, down 15 per cent. Intended acreages of corn and potatoes are unchanged from a year ago. A 2 per cent increase is expected in the acreage of all hay for harvest this year. The carryover of hay will be abnormally low as a result of the heavy demand for roughage last winter.

The outlook for irrigation water for 1952 is very favorable as a result of an above-average snow pack of unusually high water content. In general, the soil moisture situation in the dryland farming areas of eastern Oregon is satisfactory. Somewhat below-average soil moisture supplies are reported in parts of the north central section of the State. Conditions in western Oregon are excellent, with above-average early pasture growth.

The acreage actually planted to spring crops may vary from intentions because of weather conditions, changes in labor supply, shifts in farm prices, etc. The following table presents planting intentions for 1952 with comparisons for Oregon and neighboring states. In general, intentions in nearby states follow the same pattern as Oregon. There will be definitely less spring wheat than last year both in Idaho and Washington, and less barley in Washington. Idaho intends to plant the same acreage of barley as a year ago. A larger harvested acreage of hay is in prospect for both Idaho and Washington.

INTENTIONS TO PLANT - OREGON AND THE NORTHWEST						
Average 1941-50			Planted Acreages			
Acreage	Yield per		Indicated	1952 as per cent		
:Planted	:Planted Acre	:1951	:1952	: of 1951		
:(000 Acres):	Average:	Unit	Thous. Acres	Thous. Acres	:	Per cent
SPRING WHEAT						
Oregon	212	22.3	Bu.	308	206	67
Washington	662	21.8	"	647	401	62
North Idaho 1/	60	21.8	"	125	95	76
Pac. N.W. 1/	934	-	"	1,080	702	65
CORN						
Oregon	37	36.4	Bu.	26	26	100
Washington	21	48.6	"	19	21	113
Idaho	35	45.6	"	37	44	119
Total 3 States	93	-	"	82	91	111
OATS						
Oregon 3/	502	19.6	"	429	440	103
Washington	263	28.6	"	225	236	105
Idaho	213	36.3	"	212	212	100
Total 3 States	978	-	"	866	888	103
BARLEY						
Oregon	319	29.9	"	362	311	86
Washington	197	32.5	"	101	91	90
Idaho	358	33.7	"	342	342	100
Total 3 States	874	-	"	805	744	92
ALL HAY 2/						
Oregon	1,080	1.73	Ton	1,001	1,021	102
Washington	879	1.91	"	796	812	102
Idaho	1,119	2.12	"	1,066	1,098	103
Total 3 States	3,078	-	"	2,863	2,931	102
PEAS - DRY FIELD 4/						
Oregon	28	1,293	Lb.	13	11	85
Washington	240	1,269	"	188	141	75
Idaho	143	1,220	"	85	64	75
Total 3 States	411	-	"	286	216	76
POTATOES						
Oregon	42	260	Bu.	34	34	100
Washington	35	291	"	29	25	86
Idaho	162	243	"	136	131	96
Total 3 States	239	-	"	199	190	95

1/ Excludes southern Idaho.

2/ Acreage harvested

3/ The following total acreage of oats grown with peas and vetch included in planted acreages: 1951 - 142,000 acres; 1952 - 153,000 acres intended.

4/ Includes acreage grown for seed.

(Continued on page 2)

UNITED STATES: Farmers' plans for the 1952 crop season indicate relatively small changes from 1951 acreages. The 271.8 million acres, indicated as a total of the 16 crops now estimated in March, is about a million acres less than in 1951. For individual crops, however, the tendency is to shift from crops of high labor requirements to those of a less intensive nature. Weather during the spring planting season is always a major factor in changes in plans. Other significant changes may result from the Department's production program, when all the goals and allotments receive the individual farmers' consideration. Spring activities were mostly at the usual stages on March 1. Soil moisture is generally satisfactory, although in part of the Southwest it is only temporarily adequate. Irrigation water supplies generally promise to be the best in recent years. Reports from farmers show a general concern over farm labor supplies and this appears to be a limiting factor in plans for 1952 operations.

A limiting factor in the acreage available for seeding spring crops is the large acreage sown to winter wheat last fall and of which little has been abandoned to date. Cotton acreage is not covered in current reports by farmers, but the goal acreage is about the same as the large 1951 acreage. Farmers indicate a strong desire to retain and increase their hay and grassland acreage and to shift to less intensive types of farming. Current plans indicate decreases from 1951 acreages of spring wheat, mostly durum, of barley, flax, all sorghums, peanuts grown alone, dry beans and peas. Large increases are indicated for oats, soybeans and hay. Changes from 1951 acreages of corn, rice, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, tobacco, and sugar beets are likely to be relatively small.

Acreages of the principal crops to be planted or grown in 1952 are likely to total over 361 1/2 million acres, allowing for numerous crops not yet surveyed. Such a total would be less than a million acres smaller than in 1951, and exceeded only 5 times since the 1929-33 period of record acreages. It is smaller than last year partly because there will be less abandoned winter wheat acreage available for replanting to spring crops and partly because of more grasslands. Little cropland is expected to lie idle.

Feed grain acreages totaling about 1 1/2 million acres less than in 1951 do not augur well for feed grain supplies for increased livestock numbers, but no decrease in production proportionate to the decrease in acreage is likely. The prospective corn acreage barely exceeds the 1951 planted acreage. Declines are in prospect in lower-yielding areas such as in the South and in northwestern Corn Belt States where the 1951 corn crop was disappointing. But these are more than offset by larger acreages than in 1951 in the higher-yielding main Corn Belt States. An oats acreage totaling about 1 1/4 million more than in 1951 is indicated, with increases in most sections, but the largest increases are expected in the higher yielding West North Central area. There they offset sharp decreases in barley.

INTENTIONS TO PLANT: UNITED STATES

C R O P	P L A N T E D A C R E A G E S			
	Average : 1941-50	: 1951	: 1952	: 1952 as per cent : of 1951
		Thousands		Percent
Corn, all.....	88,379	83,866	83,928	100.1
All spring wheat.....	18,742	22,257	21,998	98.8
Durum.....	2,644	2,586	2,344	90.6
Other spring.....	16,098	19,671	19,654	99.9
Oats.....	43,968	41,594	42,818	102.9
Barley.....	13,986	10,840	9,752	90.0
Flaxseed.....	4,283	4,114	3,935	95.6
Rice.....	1,594	1,981	1,971	99.5
Sorghums for all purposes .	15,260	15,113	13,442	88.9
Potatoes.....	2,457	1,379	1,373	99.6
Sweetpotatoes.....	632	316	334	105.4
Tobacco 1/.....	1,630	1,782	1,804	101.2
Beans, dry edible.....	1,991	1,523	1,414	92.8
Peas, dry field.....	504	323	267	82.7
Soybeans 2/.....	12,788	14,838	15,457	104.2
Peanuts 2/.....	3,649	2,593	2,158	83.2
Hay 1/.....	74,536	74,718	75,380	100.9
Sugar Beets.....	833	759	747	98.4
1/ Acreage harvested. 2/ Grown alone for all purposes.				

Released: Portland, Oregon, March 24, 1952

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

R. B. Hile, Agri. Statistician
Acting in Charge

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